

Approved: October 4, 2012

**Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, September 6, 2012
Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

Attendance

Commissioners Present: John Becker, Julie Palakovich Carr, Kris Dighe, Alicia Hosmer, Clark Reed and Lea Rosenbohm

Commissioners Absent: Steve Cardon, Devinie Lye and Beri Kravitz

Guests: Heather Gewandter, Environmental Management
Boy Scouts from Troop 1341 working on their Citizenship Merit Badge

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:30 pm by Chair Dighe.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

The July 10, 2012 meeting minutes were approved without correction. The motion passed 5-0 [Commissioner Hosmer arrived late].

September 22 Community Day at the Universities at Shady Grove

The Environment Commission discussed logistics related to participation in *Community Day* at the Universities at Shady Grove (10:00 am until 3:00 pm). *Community Day* is an opportunity to spread the word about the Environment Commission as well as Rockville's environmental programs with the general community living around the campus. Topics included who would staff the table, what materials were needed, who the target audience was (children?) and space or energy limitations. More information about the *Community Day* can be found at:

www.shadygrove.umd.edu/communityday<.

Staffing Schedule: Commissioners Becker, Dighe, Hosmer, Kravitz, and Palakovich Carr volunteered to attend the event.

Next steps:

- Heather is getting answers to a series of logistical questions.
- Hosmer will coordinate with Heather on contents of a signup sheet.
- Commission will solidify additional materials needed, if any, after logistics questions are answered.

Stormwater Ordinance Amendments

The Commission was provided with the revised Chapter 19 Ordinance and was invited to review and make comments. The Commission members asked for the Ordinance and Regulations to be shared electronically via email and gave themselves a deadline of September 21, 2012 to submit comments to the City. The process and schedule were reviewed. Details included: Stakeholder Meeting with Development Community on September 27, Mayor and Council Introduction on

October 8; and final adoption no later than end of January 2013. City staff asked the Commission to consider endorsing the Ordinance update at its October meeting. The Commission Chair asked that this topic be added to next month's agenda.

Multi-City Commission Meeting - October 18 at the College Park City Hall, 4500 Knox Road

John Becker, Julie Palakovich Carr and Devinie Lye participated in the last Multi-City Commission Meeting. The meeting included a 3 to 5 minute report out from each city and a series of presentations from outside guests. The next meeting is expected to be similar. John Becker, Clark Reed and Lea Rosenbohm will attend the College Park meeting. They will discuss the Hometown Holidays outreach effort and one activity from each committee during the 3 – 5 minute presentation. No additional staff materials are needed.

Committee Reports

Watershed: Commissioner Palakovich Carr gave the Committee report.

- Joe Arrowsmith took over as Committee chair in June.
- The Committee is in the process of picking an October date for the Environment Commission stream cleanup.
- The Committee is working with City environmental and historic preservation staff to develop an interpretive sign about Luna Leopold to be installed as part of a historic heritage trail near Watts Branch.

Energy: Commissioner Reed gave the Committee report

- The Committee is interested in implementing a “*Kilowatt Crack Down*” program. The program goals align very well with Montgomery County's newly released report on how to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals. The Committee does not anticipate a large budgetary need – costs would include: printing, advertising and award expenses. Erica Shingara informed the Committee that in the near term City funding and staff support is limited for this initiative. Consequently, the Committee is looking for other sources of funding and support (for example for website development work). Support might be forthcoming from Montgomery County, Pepco, Constellation Energy, etc. Website support will also be needed.
- The Montgomery County staff member leading greenhouse gas reduction efforts will be invited to the next Committee meeting.
- Commissioner Hosmer suggested that a full presentation on the *Kilowatt Crack Down* idea be presented to the Commission so that every Commissioner has a better understanding of the proposed program.

Outreach: Commissioner Hosmer gave the Committee report.

- The Committee is focused on getting ready for University of Shady Grove's *Community Day*. This is an outdoor event (indoors in the event of inclement weather) focused on building better relations between the University and its neighbors. The exact audience is unclear. However, lots of children are expected to attend. A signup sheet for manning the booth was circulated. The outreach materials needed for the event was also discussed.
- There was a suggestion to develop an Environment Commission trifold depending on budget. Chair Dighe asked what the Commission budget was for FY 2013. It is \$1000.

Next Steps:

- Heather to confirm the Commission's FY 2013 budget.
- Heather to get Commission costs for a trifold brochure.
- Heather to forward current Commission factsheet to Commissioner Hosmer.

Commission Chair Nominations/Selection

In light of three absent Commissioners, this discussion was tabled until the October meeting.

Environmental Management Staff Report

Heather Gewandter indicated that the City's Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector was out on extended leave and that the City was in the process of hiring a temporary inspector. She also informed the Commission that the Fats Oils and Grease Inspector position is still frozen.

Announcements

- The City is receiving the Sustainable Maryland Certified award on October 4th at the Hagerstown Maryland Municipal League meeting. The luncheon ceremony will be followed by a panel discussion on sustainability that Rockville will participate in.
- The City will receive a *Bethesda Green* Community Sustainability Award on Oct 11 at the Bethesda Green Gala to be held from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Tower Oaks Building, 2000 Tower Oaks Blvd in Rockville. Tickets can be purchased online for \$100.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm by unanimous acclamation.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Thursday, October 4, 2012 at 7:30 pm** in the **Diamondback Conference Room** of the **Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850**. The public is invited to attend.